

Message Text

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SUBJ: USINFO

1. THE ANNUAL PLENARY SESSION OF THE MEKONG DEVELOPMENT
COMMITTEE MEETING JAN. 29 - FEB. 3 IN VIENTIANE IS
"REVIEWING PROJECTS AND LOOKING FORWARD TO FUTURE ACTIVITIES,"
ACCORDING TO KENNETH RABIN, USAID REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT
OFFICE, BANGKOK, ONE OF THE US DELEGATES.

2. THE 25 COOPERATING COUNTRIES - AS WELL AS THE FOUR
RIPARIAN NATIONS OF LAOS, THAILAND, SOUTH VIETNAM, AND
CAMBODIA -- "RECONFIRMED THEIR SUPPORT OF MEKONG COMMITTEE
ACTIVITIES," MR. RABIN SAID.

3. MAJOR TOPICS UNDER CONSIDERATION ARE A DECLARATION OF
COMMON PRINCIPLES FOR FUTURE USE OF THE MEKONG RESOURCES,
EXPECTED TO BE SIGNED IN THE NEAR FUTURE, AND A MAJOR
AGRICULTURAL PIONEER PROJECTS PROGRAM FOR THE FOUR MEKONG
COUNTRIES WHICH MAY - BE FUNDED BY MANY COUNTRIES INCLUDING
THE U.S.

4. IT WAS ALSO ANNOUNCED AT THE MEETING THAT THE BASIN-WIDE
FISHERIES PROJECT, WHICH HAS COMPLETED WORK ON THE VIETNAM
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DELTA AND OFF-SHORE AREAS, IS LAUNCHING RESEARCH EFFORTS IN

NORTHERN THAILAND AND LAOS. THE PROJECT IS DIRECTED BY A TEAM FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN AND FUNDED BY USAID.

5. THIS WEEK'S MEETING IS THE 68TH SINCE THE COMMITTEE WAS FOUNDED IN 1957. DELEGATES ASIDE FROM THE MANY COUNTRIES REPRESENTED INCLUDE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK; THE INTERNATIONAL BANK FOR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT; THE FORD FOUNDATION; THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION; UNESCO; UNICEF; UNDP/LAO; UNDP/NEW YORK, AND THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL ORGANIZATION. THE FIVE-MAN OFFICIAL US DELEGATION IS BACKED BY USAID OBSERVERS FROM THAILAND, CAMBODIA, VIETNAM, AND LAOS.
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